

Commercial Truck Driver Protest - Operational Impacts - Situational Report - February 2, 2022

From: Irrelevant

To:

Date: Wed, 02 Feb 2022 21:00:48 +0000

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<i>Situational Report</i>
Commercial Truck Driver Protest Operational Impacts
February 2, 2022

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Background

On January 15, 2022, an Order of Council (OIC) was put in-place to mandate vaccinations for commercial truck drivers crossing the border. As a result, commercial truck drivers around the country have organized and started protesting outside port of entries (POEs) by blocking roads and slowing traffic, along with a convoy of commercial vehicles headed towards Ottawa to protest outside Parliament.

Bottom Line:

- ~ On February 2, 2022 as of 07:00hrs MT, the highway north of the port of Coutts remains blocked and the gates at the port remain closed to traffic. The POE has no changes to report. All evening shift employees arrived at the POE and day shift employees returned home safely yesterday.
- ~ Blockade points have moved several times. Each time the RCMP set up a check point, the protesters have repositioned it. Due to new blockade locations, (further up Hwy #4 and elsewhere), new routes to and from the port of Coutts, have been identified for staff to travel safely and avoid chokepoints (see Detour Map below).
- ~ Tensions continued to escalate at the blockade and media reports from 22:12hrs ET, yesterday indicate that things turned violent after some protesters breached police barriers and some RCMP officers were reportedly attacked. The alleged attack cannot be confirmed or corroborated.
- ~ An extreme cold weather warning is in effect for all of Southern Alberta with extreme cold wind chill values between minus 40 and minus 45.
- ~ The Prairie Region has been advised by the RCMP that due to the lack of availability of Canadian-based towing operators (due to intimidation and 'doxing' of towing operators by protestors on social media), that a request to grant the entry of US-based towing operators and exempt the drivers from the work permit requirement (emergency services) is expected to be received early today.
- ~ All regional operations were advised of the RCMP enforcement action that was initiated at the Coutts, AB, POE last evening and advised to be on the lookout for sympathetic protest activity in the vicinity of CBSA POEs nationally.

~ Remaining protest activity nationally is not impacting POE operations. ~

US Protestors Identified at Port of Entries

~ Reports received from CBSA POEs regarding Enhanced Vigilance Exams of potential protestors:

POE	Vehicle #	Enhanced vigilance exams (PAX #)	Direct Back	Allowed to Leave	Granted Entry	Comments
Pac Hwy Traffic, PAC	2	3	3	0	~	Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Douglas, PAC	10	21	18	3	~	Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Lansdowne, NOR	1	2	~	~	2	Journalists looking to document the protests in Ottawa. Provided necessary credentials and had equipment consistent with their stated purpose of travel.
Total	13	26	21	3	~ 2 ~	~

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Atlantic Region

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~ February 2, 2022 – It has been reported that on February 4, 2022 at 1300hrs local time, the Mariners for Freedom is encouraging the blocking of cargo ships in Halifax, possibly Sault Ste. Marie and up to Ottawa for an hour. There have been requests for participation on the West Coast and worldwide. However, the St. Lawrence seaway locks are closed at this time, which limits movement into the Great Lakes.

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Quebec Region

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No updates to report

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Northern Ontario Region

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No updates to report

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Southern Ontario Region

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Ambassador Bridge:

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No updates to report

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Windsor-Detroit Tunnel:

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No updates to report

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Prairie Region

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Regional management is confirming this morning, the last report from United States Customs and Border Protection (US CBP) on January 31, 2022, noted a lengthy line-up of vehicles waiting on the highway south of the port (on the US side), to come to Canada. It was reported that the line-up is at least a mile long and service roads and surrounding communities have been filled with waiting vehicles.

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Volumes:

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# Passages (Persons)	This Week			2022- 02-01	Last Week			
	2022- 01-29	2022- 01-30	2022- 01-31		2022- 01-22	2022- 01-23	2022- 01-24	2022- 01-25
Coutts Travellers	202	22	20	11	234	253	188	251
Coutts Commercial*	262	23	0	0	397	372	361	349
Del Bonita*	0	0	186	225	0	0	43	8
Carway*	35	211	127	132	47	78	29	21
Aden*	3	32	11	17	1	0	0	1
*Designated Commercial POE								

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POEs adjacent to the Coutts, AB POE, have processed a significantly higher volume of clients who have detoured from Coutts, AB.

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The CBSA will be temporarily expanding hours of service at two POEs in Alberta due to the ongoing protest and blockade in the immediate vicinity of the CBSA POE at Coutts, Alberta. This short-term measure will allow the CBSA to alleviate impacts to travellers that are unable to access CBSA services at the Coutts, Alberta POE, while the protest activity is underway. US CBP have been consulted and have agreed to extend their hours of service to match CBSA's temporary extension effective today.

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The two land POEs are located adjacent to the Coutts, AB POE and are designated under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) regulations to provide immigration services.

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- 1.~ [Carway, Alberta](#) – currently scheduled from 08:00 to 18:00 hours MT, temporary expansion to 08:00 to 22:00 hours MT;
- 2.~ [Del Bonita, Alberta](#) – currently scheduled from 09:00 to 17:00 hours MT, temporary expansion to 24/7 service.

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Traders and commercial carriers will continue to be advised that three adjacent commercial ports of entry remain available at Regway SK, North Portal, SK and Roosevelt, BC.

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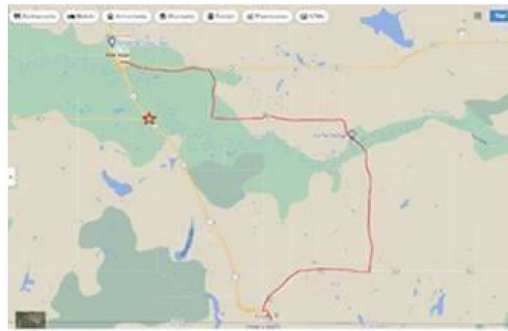
The CBSA will closely monitor volumes and will assess the continued requirement for revised hours of operation at the two POEs. The CBSA will return to the previous hours of operation at these sites when rerouted traffic destined to Coutts, AB has subsided.

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Coutts:

- February 2, 2022 – As of 11:00hrs MT, there are no vehicles waiting on the US side of Coutts to cross into Canada. There were 50 this morning, but appear to have been rerouted. The RCMP have stated that the feel of the crowd is that 80-90% of protesters are “all in & entrenched” and have started to become more aggressive with a “nothing to lose” attitude. RCMP will continue with enforcement, including towing vehicles to remove the blockades, but will also continue to educate the protesters on what the legal implications of their actions are. The RCMP are discussing resourcing into the weekend indicating a sustained presence in the area is expected and with checkpoints being challenged by protesters, they are working to maintain position.
- February 2, 2022 – As of 11:00hrs MT, it is reported that Alberta Tow Truck Association will be engaging with tow companies to try to resolve the issues that are preventing them from cooperating and providing service to the RCMP.
- February 2, 2022 - As of 10:40hrs MT, the highway north of the port of Coutts remains blocked and the gates remain closed to traffic at the port. All Officers and Managers have been able to report to work without incident and overnight shift reported arriving safely at home without incident or delay northbound. Access into and out of the port is still being maintained using a secondary road through the town of Coutts with the access point controlled by the RCMP.
- An extreme cold weather warning is in effect for all of Southern Alberta with extreme cold wind chill values between minus 40 and minus 45.
- On February 2, 2022 as of 07:00hrs MT, the highway north of the port of Coutts remains blocked and the gates at the port remain closed to traffic.
- Blockade points have moved several times. Each time the RCMP set up a check point, the protesters have repositioned it. Due to new blockade locations, (further up Hwy #4 and elsewhere), new routes to and from the POE of Coutts, AB, have been identified for staff to travel safely and avoid chokepoints (see Detour Map below).
- Continued pressure from RCMP for CBSA to make a decision on the option to use US Tow Companies to help clear the blockades due to the inability or unwillingness of Canadian tow companies to assist. AB Tow Association has reached out to the RCMP and they will be meeting today. RCMP provided a briefing document to CBSA of their efforts to secure tow truck companies for enforcement action operation (Tow and Cane Companies contacted).
- RCMP’s position at this time is to minimize intrusions and maintain their position.
- The Prairie Region has been advised by the RCMP that due to the lack of availability of Canadian-based towing operators, (due to intimidation and ‘doxxing’ of towing operators by protestors on social media), that a request to grant the entry of US-based towing operators and exempt the drivers from the work permit requirement (emergency services) is expected to be received early today.
- The initial focus of the mission was to re-open the highway and border, and this has now shifted to gathering evidence to lay charges, which may result in delays to the resolution of the overall issue.
- February 2, 2022 - As of 00:37hrs ET, the POE has no changes to report. All evening shift employees arrived at the POE and day shift employees returned home safely. The afternoon shift employees will be heading home shortly.
- February 1, 2022 - As of 22:12hrs, ET, tensions continued to escalate at the blockade and media reports that the situation turned violent after some protesters breached police barriers and

some RCMP officers were reportedly attacked. The alleged attack cannot be confirmed or corroborated.



Carway

No updates to report ~

Emerson

- ~ February 2, 2022 – As of 11:08hrs CT, the convoy has 14 vehicles that are driving down highway 75. The vehicles created a back log of commercial trucks that were trying to enter the US. Currently, there is no operational impact and no impact to vehicles coming into Canada. Once the 14 vehicles start going north bound, it will slow traffic down, but will not effect operations.
- ~ February 2, 2022 – At 07:36hrs CT, the Convoy has started up again. The convoy consists of approximately 10 pickup trucks. They are currently approximately 7 km's. They are currently obstructing both sides of the highway. Operations are impacted as all day staff officers are stuck behind the convoy.

North Portal

No updates to report

Pacific Region

- ~ February 2, 2022 – As of 11:08hrs MT, CBSA Intel has confirmed that for a potential protest at Kingsgate, the situation remains unchanged. There is no confirmation of a convoy at this time.
- ~ There has been some trucker chatter suggesting that some of the blockade leaving Coutts is heading towards the Kingsgate, BC POE. The CBSA has been in contact with Elk Valley RCMP who have heard similar information. At present, there is a severe storm in the Crowsnest pass with at least 4 accidents. Elk Valley RCMP are dealing with that and will try and intercept any activity at the BC and AB border if possible. Regions will continue to monitor and will provide further information as received.

Intelligence and Enforcement

Intelligence Landscape (Updates in red)

BLUF: February 2, 2022 – As of 13:30hrs ET, the overall threat to CBSA officers and infrastructure is low.

ANALYSIS:

General Threats

- ~ According to the RCMP, no formal organized plot of violence has been identified. Factors such as the circulation of misinformation, exhaustion, substance abuse, altercations amongst

protesters and with law enforcement and the influence of ideologically motivated actors or charismatic speakers may impact the temperature of the crowd. The potential for violence by a lone actor or fringe group cannot be discounted.

- There is currently no confirmed end time for the demonstrations. Government reports indicate that additional protest convoys may attempt to come to Ottawa this coming weekend. Reaction to the protest is continuing to galvanize local residents. The City of Ottawa has received a permit application for a possible counter demonstration on Saturday, February 5, 2022. According to the application the group is expected to protest around the convoy from 1200hrs to 1900hrs. The organizer wrote: "We the people of Ottawa will peacefully March against the terrorists occupying our city centre with the goal to expel them and reduce the noise and fear they're causing our citizens.". The organizer is also expecting approx. 1000 people.

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POE Threats

- An ongoing analysis of SRT reporting, OSINT, s.38 indicates that there are no credible threats currently identified for any POE.
- The protest at Coutts persists. RCMP officers attempted to get traffic moving at the blockade on 01 Feb., however there has been resistance by protesters leading to incidents involving breaching the police barrier, a vehicle accident and physical assault. This activity is occurring north of the POE, but continues to present an increased threat to border service officers.
- Another convoy has appeared at the POE at Emerson MB. Convoy is 14 vehicles that are driving down the 75. They are just approaching at the port of entry and have created a very big back log of commercial trucks that were trying to enter the US. At the moment there is no operational impact and no impact to vehicles coming into Canada. Once the 14 vehicle start going north bound it will slow traffic down but will not effect operations.
- In addition to the event in Ottawa, a Mariners for Freedom vessel parade is being planned across Canada, reportedly aiming to "protest in ports and all over Canadian shipping lanes." The movement's Facebook page had gained over 7,000 members by 01 Feb, and an additional 5,000 members in the past 12 hours. The event is planned for 04 Feb at 13:00 local time at participant ports. While disruptive activity is not being considered for 04 Feb, consideration is being given to disrupting commercial marine transportation in future events should demands not be met.

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Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE)

- According to the RCMP, while chatter encouraging peaceful and lawful protest continues to circulate, concerns exist that protest events associated with the convoy could be exploited by individuals who engage in or promote actions that pose a risk to public and officer safety.

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Other Threats

- The size, unorganized potential and general distraction of some these POE protests continue to create conditions where both criminal actors and migrants may use the events to illegally cross the border into Canada. This may also include protesters who wish to join events on the Canadian side of the border, but do not want to report to Border Service Officers.
- Media is reporting that Industry warns that the blockade in Coutts threatens supply chain to the US. In particular, Canadian beef production relies on key border points, like Coutts, to move critical food supply chain elements (everything from animal feed through to the transport of cattle). The continued blockage of Coutts may quickly become a threat to various commercial, trade, labour and immigration (temporary foreign workers in the Prairies) sectors.
- Social media and news websites in the US indicate that there is an online movement, focused on Facebook pages entitled "Freedom Convoy 2022", to organize a protest convoy of US truckers which would converge on Washington D.C. with tentative planned arrival time in D.C. of February 8th. There are two proposed routes for these convoys, Dallas to D.C and Tampa to D.C.. There is no reporting at this time to indicate that the proposed US convoys plan to enter Canada.

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Internal Taskforce

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No updates to report

Communications

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~ February 2, 2022 – As of 11:14hrs ET, CBSA Communicates reports that media articles in this morning's clippings have shifted from mainly covering the trucker issue, however articles most major outlets are reporting on the ongoing situation in Coutts where some vehicles have left, while others have rushed in as the RCMP attempt to break up the blockade.

Other Governmental Departments

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~ February 2, 2022 – As of 12:03hrs ET, There are approximately 20-30 people on Parliament Hill, approximately 10-20 on Wellington and surrounding streets in front of Parliament Hill. Currently there is a counter-protest at Metcalfe and Wellington with 10 people.

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~ February 2, 2022 – As of 09:51hrs ET, there is currently little to no people currently on Parliament Hill, minimal people on Wellington and surrounding streets in front of Parliament Hill. Reports have been received of a potential counter protest with additional convoys coming to Ottawa over the weekend. The current status of the interprovincial bridges are as follows:

Macdonald-Cartier Bridge is open

Alexandra Bridge is closed

Portage Bridge is closed southbound (accessible from Bay only for northbound traffic)

Chaudière Bridge is open

Champlain Bridge is open

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